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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449 are a number of documents which may be considered material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of these documents is provided.

Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed documents should they be applied as references, and/or to prove that some of these documents may not be prior art, and/or to prove that some of these documents may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer.

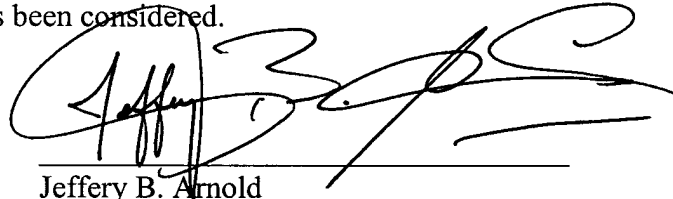
This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the materials

submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to conduct an independent and thorough review of the documents, and to form independent opinions as to their significance.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of enclosed PTO-1449, and to similarly indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return copies of the enclosed PTO-1449 and to indicate in the official file wrapper of the above-identified patent application that each item of the cited information has been considered.

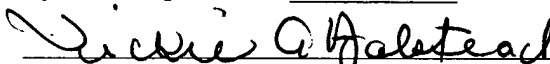
Date: October 10, 2000



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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee," in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: October 10, 2000
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